

REMARKS

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the interview conducted with applicants' representative. The claims have been amended as presented at the interview. Specifically, claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10 - 16 have been amended, claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 17 - 20 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claim 21 has been added. Thus by this paper, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 - 16 and 21 are presented for reconsideration, of which claims 1 and 21 are independent.

Applicants' invention is directed to an x-ray positioning device that allows a dental practitioner to adjust the x-ray beam horizontally and vertically relative to the center of the radiographic film with a greater degree of precision, and which can be recorded for accurate re-taking of x-rays when desired. As presented for reconsideration, independent claim 1 is directed to a dental x-ray positioning device that has a frame comprised of first and second structural members rotatably coupled to one another. The first structural member has a first bar connected to it that has a bite block slidably connected to the first bar, and an image receptor holder spaced from the bite block. A second bar is connected to said second structural member so as to be oriented essentially 90° with respect to the first bar. The second bar has an arm attached to the second bar and oriented essentially parallel to said first bar, with an aiming ring slidably connected to the arm. The aiming ring and image receptor holder are adjustable both horizontally and vertically relative to one another so as to allow the center of an x-ray beam directed through the aiming ring to be adjustable horizontally and vertically relative to the center of an image receptor retained by the image receptor holder.

New independent claim 21 is directed to a dental x-ray positioning device having a frame comprised of a "first means for slidably positioning a bite block relative to an image receptor holder, a second means for slidably positioning an aiming ring in an essentially parallel fashion relative to the image receptor, and means for rotatably coupling the first and second means so as that the aiming ring and image receptor holder are vertically adjustable relative to one another so as to allow the center of an x-ray beam directed through the aiming ring to be adjustable horizontally and vertically relative to the center of an image receptor retained by the image receptor holder."

¹ As noted at the interview the corresponding structure to each of the three means-plus-function limitations of this claim is as follows: corresponding structure for the means for rotatably coupling the first and second means is

In the first Office Action, the claims were rejected as either anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U. S. Patent No. 5,799,058 (Willis et al.), or as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Willis et al. combined with either U. S. Patent No. 4,707,847 (Van Aken) (cited as teaching interchangeable bite blocks, see original dependent claims 4 – 7) or U. S. Patent No. 5,289,522 (Kanbar et al.) (cited as teaching a slidable aiming ring, see original dependent claims 9 – 11).

As noted and discussed at the interview, none of the references of record disclose or suggest a dental x-ray positioning device in which the aiming ring and image receptor holder are adjustable both horizontally and vertically relative to one another so as to allow the center of an x-ray beam directed through the aiming ring to be adjustable horizontally and vertically relative to the center of an image receptor retained by the image receptor holder. The improved positioning in both horizontal and vertical directions is accomplished by a frame, which as claimed, includes a frame comprised of first and second structural members rotatably coupled to one another. The first structural member has a first bar connected to it that has a bite block slidably connected to the first bar, and an image receptor holder spaced from the bite block. A second bar is connected to said second structural member so as to be oriented essentially 90° with respect to the first bar. The second bar has an arm attached to the second bar and oriented essentially parallel to said first bar, with an aiming ring slidably connected to the arm.

For at least the foregoing reasons, and as noted in the interview summary by the Examiner, "Applicants' proposed amendment . . . appears to overcome the prior art of record". Applicants therefore respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims.

In the event the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to allowance that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

comprised of the first and second structural members (116, 118) rotatably coupled to one another. The corresponding structure for the first means for slidably positioning a bite block relative to an image receptor holder is comprised of a first bar (110/124) connected to the first structural member (116), with a bite block (104) slidably connected to the first bar (110/124), and an image receptor holder (108) spaced from the bite block (104) and connected to the first bar (110/124). The corresponding structure for the second means for slidably positioning an aiming ring in an essentially parallel fashion relative to the image receptor is comprised of a second bar (112) connected to the second structural member (118) so as to be oriented essentially 90° with respect to the first bar (110/124), the second bar having an arm (114) attached to the second bar (112) and oriented essentially parallel to said first bar (110/124), with an aiming ring (106) slidably connected to the arm (114).

Dated this ____ day of November, 2005.

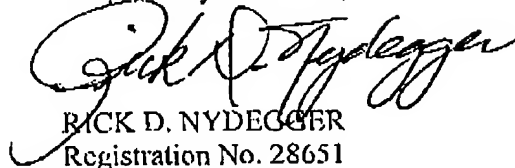
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated this 17th day of ^{December} ~~November~~, 2005.

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